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Gaam language

Gaam (Gaahmg), also known as **Ingessana**, *(Me/Mun)Tabi*, *Kamanidi*, or *Mamedja/Mamidza*, is an Eastern Sudanic language spoken by the Ingessana people in the Tabi Hills in eastern Sudan, near Ethiopia. It was considered an isolate within Eastern Sudanic until the other Eastern Jebel languages were discovered in the late 20th century. Dialects are *Soda (Tao)*, *Kukur (Gor)*, *Kulang (Kulelek, Bau)*, *Buwahg (Buek)*.

Gaam	
Ingessana	
Native to	Sudan
Ethnicity	Ingessana
Native speakers	67,000 (2000)[1]
Language family	Nilo-Saharan? ▪ Eastern Sudanic ▪ Kir–Abbaian ▪ Eastern Jebel ▪ **Gaam**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`tbi`
Glottolog	`gaam1241 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/gaam1241)`[2]

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Phonology

Consonants

There are 21 distinct consonant phonemes. The fricative, nasal, lateral and rhotic consonants also distinguish length.

[3]

	Labial		Dental		Alveolar		Palatal		Velar	
Plosives	p	b	t̪	d̪	t	d	c	ɟ	k	g
Fricatives	f, fː				s, sː					
Nasals		m, mː				n, nː		ɲ, ɲː		ŋ, ŋː
Laterals						l, lː				
Rhotics						r, rː				
Approximants		w				ð	y			

Vowels

There are six distinct vowel phonemes. All six can also occur in sequential (and thus lengthened) form but may change phonetic quality. Stirtz (2012)[4] proposes the following system:

	[-round]		[+round]
	[-back]	[+back]	
[+ATR]	i	ə	u
[-ATR]	ɛ	a	ɔ

Tone

Gaam is a tonal language. There are three level tones, High, Mid and Low, which can be combined to form rising and falling tones. A total of nine tone melodies is possible, all of them contrastive.

References

1. Gaam (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/tbi/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Gaam" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/gaam1241). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Stirtz (2012:21)
4. Stirtz (2012:33)

Bibliography

- Stirtz, Timothy (2004). "Phonology and orthography in Gaahmg". *Occasional Papers in the Study of Sudanese Languages*. **9**: 127–144.
- Stirtz, Timothy (2012). *A grammar of Gaahmg, a Nilo-Saharan language of Sudan* (Ph.D. thesis). Rijksuniversiteit te Leiden. hdl:1887/18452 (https://hdl.handle.net/1887%2F18452). ISBN 978-94-6093-078-2.

External links

- Gaam basic lexicon at the Global Lexicostatistical Database (http://starling.rinet.ru/cgi-bin/response.cgi?root=new100&morpho=0&basename=new100\esu\jeb&limit=-1)

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